

June 11, 2020

The June 11, 2020 virtual meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was conducted via Zoom and began at 7:37 p.m. Participating were Paul Tarlowe, Dawn Smith, Robert Jewell and Ruth Panté. Not responding to the invitation were Jim McMekin, Kathie Todd, Glenn Todd and Township Committee liaison representatives Glen McGuinness and Desiree Dillon. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting, seconded by Ms. Smith; all in favor.

Ms. Panté suggested the May 14, 2020 minutes be revised to include a notation of the reason no meetings were held in March and April. With that correction, it was MOVED by Ms. Smith to accept and approve the minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Jewell; all in favor.

ANJEC Grant/Cafferata Park

ANJEC has rejected the application for an open space grant, offering no reason therefor. Mr. Tarlowe thanked Mr. Jewell and Ms. Smith for their work on behalf of this Commission. Mr. Tarlowe asked if some effort should be made to maintain and secure safety at Cafferata Park as had been proposed. Ms. Smith suggested the Township Committee be approached to see if they can help with funding. Mr. Jewell estimated \$400 or \$500 for the material; he has offered the services of his trucking company to do the transportation and spreading of the gravel at the site. John Snyder, Dept of Public Works Superintendent, said they could deliver the materials needed for the walking trail project. The Township Clerk spoke with the Mayor who requested an e-mail so this could be discussed at the next Township Committee meeting. Ms. Smith and Mr. Tarlowe will draft the request. The donation of the Salem Oak seedling and signage at the Park was discussed; Ms. Smith noted both suggestions will be included in the proposal to the Township Committee. Mr. Tarlowe said a field trip to the Park would help decide a site for planting the tree. Ms. Smith asked if any trees at the Park need to be removed and suggested an extension of the parking lot should be considered while checking nearby trees for damage.

Bluebird Nesting Boxes

The birds are happy! Two families are going to the Park regularly to check and taking photos documenting the effort. The families have the opportunity to walk the trail and monitor the nests. Mr. Tarlowe asked Ms. Smith to draft a small write-up for the Township web site; photos would be helpful. Mr. Tarlowe asked if the Township participates in social media. Ms. Smith noted social media is a weak point at this time, and she warned that caution should be practiced.

Mr. Jewell, reporting for the Land Use Board, said the Raffaeles have applied for use of their 22-acre farm for social events such as celebrations; the application was withdrawn without prejudice. They maintain the right to bring in school buses for education programs.

Ms. Smith saw the demolition is ongoing at the Port Murray house burned in a fire; she understands the cause is being blamed on a product now recalled for the space heater used in the home.

Ms. Smith received documents for the final report on the ANJEC grant which is due in June. She and Ms. Martin will prepare the draft report.

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté, Clerk

Next meeting date:
July 9, 2020